(b) The export of iron ore is necessitated due to the ore being in surplus quantity after meeting the demand of domestic industry; to avoid environmental hazards resulting from accumulated surplus iron ore; and to promote mining activity generating more employment. Likewise, only surplus chrome ore and manganese ore are allowed to be exported with quantitative cap after ascertaining the requirements of the domestic industry.

(c) The iron ore resources are available for exports even after meeting the demand of domestic industry. Hence, there is no such proposal under consideration at present.

Provision for data protection

3000. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is under pressure from MNCs to provide for data protection; and

(b) if so, what are the details and views of various Government Departments for the grant of data protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

India a Knowledge hub

3001. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how Government proposes to give concrete shape to the statement made by the Commerce Minister that" by 2035 India's population is to stablise at about 1.5 billion, the country would achieve 100 per cent literacy and that it would become a knowledge hub, serving future workers through a convergence of technologies".

(b) what are the broad strategies being thought of, with a time-frame in this regard;and